India at a Danish missionary school. Every year, all Danish missionaries in India summered there. When you went butterfly collecting after church on Sunday (having already lost valuable collecting time), you were subject to sudden ambushes from middle-aged gentlemen, clamping a hand on your head and demanding with menaces "Well Torben, how is your relationship with the Lord this morning?". The experience put me off religion, especially of proselytising variety, for life.

But, like it or not, you really have to hand it to the Jehovah's Witnesses. The issue of *Awake* that I saw had a lot of genuine information – such as an accurate resumé of Balkan history since Grand Duke Ferdinand was murdered in Sarajevo. Their 12,900,000 copies end up in parts which no other printed matter reaches. And the gracious apology from my friend on the little matter of butterfly numbers will remain in my memory.– TORBEN B. LARSEN, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL.

Early migrant moths in Scotland in 1995

Agrotis ipsilon (Hufn.), the Dark Sword Grass moth, is usually recorded as a casual immigrant in Scotland in mid-late summer but one came to light near Kincraig, Strathspey on 6th April 1995; three were present in an m.v. light trap at Sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve, Aberdeenshire on 13th April 1995 and four were present in a similar trap at Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire on 14th April 1995. No other known migrant moth species were recorded on the same occasions but some of the first Sand Martins and Wheatears were seen in Aberdeenshire on the 13th and 14th April after a period of unseasonally warm weather and light winds.

Skinner (1984. *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles.* Viking, Middlesex) suggests that the species may occasionally survive mild winters in Britain. However, the 1994/95 winter has been of average severity in Scotland and Aberdeenshire is an unlikely location for overwintering migrants! It therefore seems probable that these specimens were primary migrants.– M.R. YOUNG, Culterty Field Station, University of Aberdeen, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 0AA.

[Large numbers of *A. ipsilon* were also recorded at light and on sugar at Loch Rannoch on 8th April 1995, when the hills were still covered with snow. – A.S.]

Early emergence of butterflies and moths in the Isle of Wight during 1995

The winter of 1994-5 was one of the wettest though warmest in recent years. The first half of April was influenced by a large area of high pressure which resulted in warm sunny days causing an early emergence of butterflies and moths in this very forward spring.

The most exceptional record of the winter was that of *Selenia dentaria* (Fabr.) which was taken at Binstead by Brian Warne on 14th January. An

example of *Vanessea atalanta* (L.) was seen at Firestone Copse, Havenstreet on 2nd February which supports further evidence that this species hibernates in this country during mild winters. A specimen of *Cynthia cardui* (L.) was observed at Luccombe Down on 4th February. Two of our commoner migrant moths also appeared during this month namely *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) on 6th February at Freshwater and *Nomophila noctuella* (D.&S.) on 22nd February at Binstead.

The warm and sunny April caused the exceptionally early emergence of *Pieris napi* (L.) at Whitefield Woods, Ryde and *Callophrys rubi* (L.) in the chalk-pit at Compton Down on 12th April, and *Pyrgus malvae* (L.) on 14th April also at the latter locality. Amongst the moths the most outstanding were *Acronicta psi* (L.) at Ryde, *Aethalura punctulata* (D.&S.) at Whitefield Woods, *Aspitates ochrearia* (Rossi.) on Compton Down on 14th April; *Spilosoma luteum* (Hufn.) at Binstead on 25th April and *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* (D.&S.) at Cranmore on 27th April.

I now give below a list of early emergents taken on the island during 1995.

Date	**Species**	**Locality**
January		
14th	*Selenia dentaria* (Fabr.)	Binstead
February		
2nd	*Vanessa atalanta* (L.)	Firestone Copse
4th	*Cynthia cardui* (L.)	Luccombe Down
8th	*Xylocampa areola* (Esp.)	Cranmore
22nd	*Nomophila noctuella* (D.&S.)	Binstead
April		
8th	*Menophra abruptaria* (Thunb.)	Binstead
12th	*Pheosia gnoma* (Fabr.)	Binstead
	Pieris napi (L.)	Whitefield Woods
	Callophrys rubi (L.)	Compton Down
13th	*Ochropleura plecta* (L.)	Binstead
14th	*Acronicta psi* (L.)	Ryde
	Aethalura punctulata (D.&S.)	Whitefield Woods
	Agrotis puta (Hb.)	Freshwater
	Aspitates ochrearia (Rossi)	Compton Down
	Pyrgus malvae (L.)	Compton Down
15th	*Pterostoma palpina* (Cl.)	Freshwater
23rd	*Lasiommata megera* (L.)	Compton Down
24th	*Eligmodonta ziczac* (L.)	Binstead
25th	*Spilosoma luteum* (Hufn.)	Binstead
26th	*Notodonta dromedarius* (L.)	Binstead
27th	*Xanthorhoe spadicearia* (D.&S.)	Cranmore
28th	*Alcis repandata* (L.)	Whitefield Woods
30th	*Tyria jacobaeae*	Arreton

May		
1st	*Phalera bucephala* (L.)	Freshwater
3rd	*Coenonympha pamphilus* (L.)	Compton Down
6th	*Noctua pronuba* (L.)	Cranmore
8th	*Hadena perplexa* (D.&S.)	Freshwater

I should like to mention the following observation that I witnessed on Compton Down on 14th April. This was a pair of *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* (L.) in copula settled on the grass accompanied by five other males crawling over the unfortunate couple. This is the first time that I have seen this species assemble in this way.

Finally I should like to record two very early sightings of the Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*). Andy Butler saw two at Alverstone on 9th April and my mother noticed one in the garden at Freshwater on the following day.– S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

Drunken goat moth larvae

I have also had occasion to resuscitate "drunken" goat moth larvae, (*vide* Clerck, J., 1995. Drunken goats. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **106**: 82). Mine were fed on wholemeal bread and apple, in the recommended fashion, but the container was rather tall and narrow and, on one occasion, the apple became somewhat decayed. Fumes of some sort overcame my larvae and one morning I found them insensible. They were apparently completely lifeless but not flaccid or misshapen, as may happen with disease. Suspecting that they were merely intoxicated, I placed them on some absorbent paper and gently massaged them, so as to cause air to be forced in and out of the spiracles. After about 30 minutes they began to wriggle slightly and after a further 30 minutes had made a full recovery. Since then they have again fed voraciously and are now (April 1995) just becoming active after the winter. I wondered how much the effect was due to alcohol fumes, of which the container certainly smelt, and how much to CO_2 anaesthesia.– M.R. YOUNG, Culterty Field Station, University of Aberdeen, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 0AA.

[Note: All three moths duly emerged in July 1995 – M.Y.]

***Stigmella continuella* (Stt.) (Lepidoptera: Nepticulidae) in Scotland**

In September 1988, Mark Young introduced *Stigmella continuella* (Stainton, 1856) to the Scottish list when he discovered mines of this species on the Glenfarrar NNR (VC96) and Ariundle NNR (VC97) (Agassiz, D. (1990) *Ent. Rec. J. Var.* **102**: 131). Last year this species turned up in two further, widely separated localities. On 10.ix.1994 the author found two vacated leafmines of this species on Birch at Camghouran (Grid Ref. NN5455), Rannoch, Perthshire (VC88). On 21.ix.94 a survey for a Forestry